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ADDRESS AND QUERIES

TO THE PUBLIC,

RELATIVE TO THE COMPILING A COMPLETE

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY

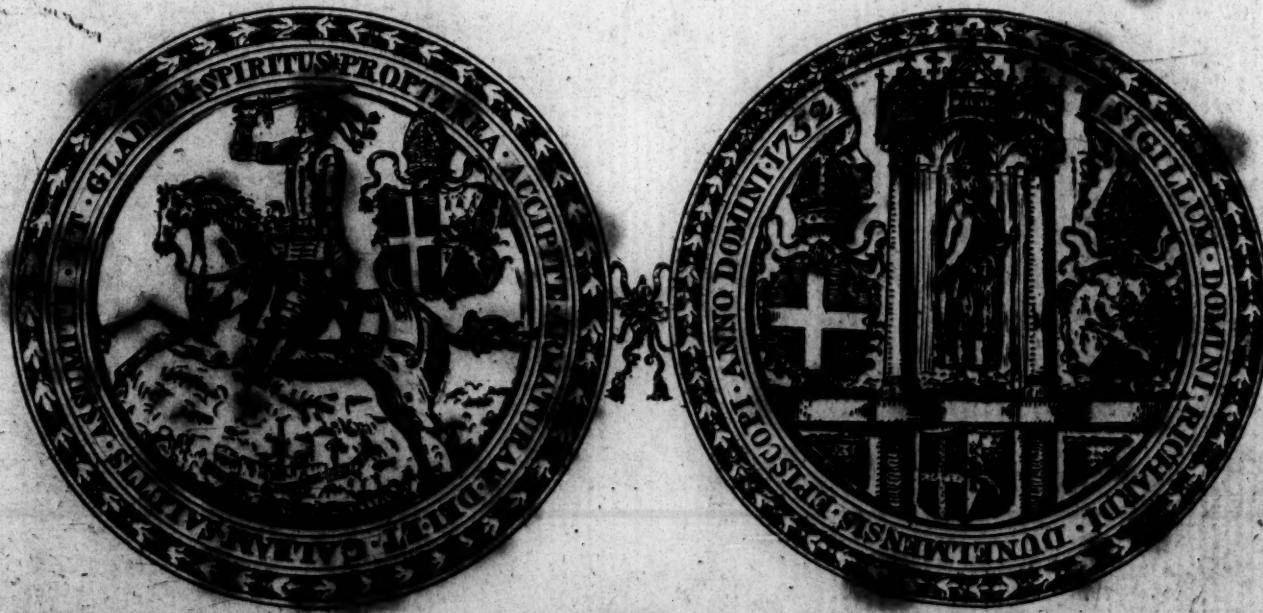
OF THE ANTIET AND PRESENT STATE OF

THE COUNTY PALATINE OF

DURHAM.

By Mr George Allen of Darlington

Antiquitates seu Historiarum Reliquiae, sunt tanquam Tabulae
Naufragii, quas Homines industrii et sagaces ex Genealogiis,
Fastis, Titulis, Numismatibus, Archivis, et Instrumentis tam
publicis quam privatis, a temporis diluvio eripiunt et conservant.



DARLINGTON
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СИНЕГО ОНА РАДИА

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РЕДАКТОРУ, ПРИЧЕМЪ БЫЛЪ ОТЪМЪЩЕНЪ
ХОРОШИЙ СОСЛАВЛЕНІЕ, ОНА ДѢЛЮ

БЫЛЪ ПРИЧЕМЪ ОНА ВЪДѢЛЪ БЫЛЪ

СОДЪ ИНТ



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ПРИ УГАЗУ ПЛАНЫ ОЧЕДНОЕ

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A D D R E S S TO THE PUBLIC Relative to the compiling a CIVIL and ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF THE ANTIQUITIES AND PRESENT STATE OF THE COUNTY PALATINE OF DURHAM.

LORD BACON somewhere observes, that learned Men want such Inventories of every thing in Art and Nature, as, rich Men have of their Estates. As Discoveries and Descriptions multiply; some fall back into Obscurity, and others press forward into Light, after a while. We wish to retrieve them, and as our Knowledge advances, We would know how far that of our Forefathers went, and would derive assistance from it.

History has been defined by some Writers, the *Register* of Ages past, and the *Mirror* of the present; but in whatever light We view it, either of Instruction, Intelligence, or Amusement, the History of our own Country will always be reckoned the most useful and entertaining. Whatever more immediately concerns ourselves, necessarily becomes the striking Object of our Attention; and in this respect, the History of our several Counties, though possibly less pleasing than many other parts of History, may be rendered the most useful to those Persons, who bear any Relation to them, either by Habitation, Nativity, or Descent.

Antiquarian Literature was in a promising train among Us in the last Century, 'till our unhappy Contests involved all good Learning in one common Confusion with Religion and good Manners: This Age is happy in possessing so much of the spirit of the last, that the taste for British Antiquities daily increases, and the growing spirit of Antiquarian Curiosity points out new Enquiries. The eagerness with which every work on the subject is sought after, is evidence of this Assertion.

Among

See Gough's *Anecdotes*—BURTON's *Monasticon Eboracense*—and GOWRYS Address for the History of Cheshire.—

Those who have hitherto treated our Topographical Antiquities, seem to have trodden only in mazes overgrown with Thorns, neglecting the flowery Paths with which the Wilderness of Obscurity is diversified: Futile Etymologies, verbose Disquisitions, couds of Canterbury Stories and Legends, incorrect Pedigrees, lying Epitaphs, lists of Landholders, and such Farrago, thrown together without method, make the bulk of our County Histories: Such works bring the study of Antiquities into disgrace with the Generality, and disgusts the most candid Curiosity. — Whoever sits down to compile the History and Antiquities of a County or Town, should confine the Evidence he collects from Books and Manuscripts, by Inspection of Places described. — The face of the Country, and the Monuments remaining on it, are as interesting, as the progress of Descents, or Revolutions of Property. — Injudicious and Sedentary Compilers, find it much easier to arrange Materials put into their hands, than to ramble about and examine every remnant of Antiquity; Fatigue and Expence are made excuses for Indolence or want of Judgment, when a proper Correspondence with intelligent Persons would help to much Information, and correct or confirm that already received. -- It is acknowledged such Works require time, and tho' there are some cases, in which it were to be wished diligent Collectors were more forward to oblige the Public with their Labours, this Study suffers by nothing so much, as by productions hurried into light, without proper Correctness and maturity. -- Next to the Uncertainty unavoidable in such Pursuits, and an injudicious use of Materials already collected, nothing is more perplexing than to find no use at all made of many Monuments and Evidences, obvious to a careful Inquirer, but more exposed to the ravages of Time and Accident. We shall often find such Traditions annexed to these as lead to the History of the Monuments themselves, — and Traditions are by no means to be despised!

Among the number of Writers this Kingdom has produced in every Period for so many Centuries, We might have expected before this, that some one should have turned his thoughts to a History of the *County Palatine of Durham*, so singularly distinguished by its peculiar Privileges, and whose History is important in itself, and particularly interesting to its Inhabitants. The peculiar circumstance of having enjoyed a Palatinate Jurisdiction, a Monarchy of itself, a complete *Imperium in Imperio* for so many Centuries, renders the Account of it more curious and amusing than that of any other of its Sister Provinces.

DUNELMIA sola judicat Ense et Stola.

From

From the first Establishment of the See, We wanted not Monks to record the Public Transactions, and the minutest detail of Religious and Civil Controversy found a place in their Records. Every Religious that could write or read (at a time when nobody else could) entered in his Register, like a good Housewife in her Almanac, the Achievements or Distresses of his Brethren and Countrymen, and such as had not Wit enough to be Original Authors, had at least Industry enough to be Transcribers, or superadd the Credulity of others to their own.

It was not 'till the Monks were turned adrift, and the invention of Printing had given Circulation to every Improvement the Mind enlarged could make, that We began to be acquainted with the face of our own Country.

The first that undertook to open the way was LELAND, at the most critical Period, when our Antiquities were on the point of being involved in the Ruins of our Religious Foundations; but his Works are only the Outlines and Materials of a greater Plan, which he enjoyed neither Life nor Reason to finish, and tho' Desolation marked his way, We must venerate his ingested Researches, as the First-Fruits of Antiquarian Science among Us, "What he did was faithful, what he designed was great and noble!"

CAMDEN, whose Genius for Antiquities was innate, was first put upon restoring Antiquity to Britain, and Britain to Antiquity. These two had many Imitators.

In 1590 an Antiquarian Society was formed of some of the greatest names in our Republic of Letters, whose Members produced works that will do honor to themselves and their Country.

The succeeding Calamities of Civil Broils, quickened DUGDALE and DODSWORTH to preserve our Monastic, in which so many other Treasures are included: Every one knows what We owe to them for the *Monasticon Anglicanum*.

While CAMDEN was engaged in a General Description of the Kingdom, LAMBARDE and ERDESWICKE caught the happy Contagion, and set about their Histories of Kent and Staffordshire, and several others followed.

But of the forty Counties in England, eighteen have found no Antiquary hardy enough to attempt their General Illustration, and amongst the latter, is the *County of Durham*.

As a regular then and well digested History of the *County of Durham* is, for these several reasons, so peculiarly interesting to its Inhabitants, at the same time as it is singularly curious and important in itself; it may be natural to enquire, what Collections have been made for compiling a Narrative of it, and what Materials exist either in *Print* or *Manuscript* for such a laudable Undertaking. — The *Manuscript* Materials are much more numerous and valuable than the *Printed* ones, for in reality, what the Press has hitherto produced relative to this County, is trifling, defective not only in Method but in Matter, and by no means equal to the intrinsic merit of the Subject.

The several valuable Collections made by Mr. MICKLETON Dr. ELLISON Dr. SMITH and Dr. HUNTER for this County are yet withheld from the Public, and Mr. SPEARMAN's Intention proved abortive; Want of Materials cannot be complained of here. The *Cotton Library* is hardly better stock'd with the Records of any Cathedral or County in England, than that of Durham, and the *British Museum* with the *Libraries* and *Public Offices* at Durham afford the same, — but Access to the latter is now difficult to be obtained.

The History of any County, to render it either pleasing or compleat, requires some particulars of the nature of the Soil, its Products, Manufactures, ancient Buildings, local Antiquities, and principal Sepulchral Monuments; together with some Narrative of its Ecclesiastical Concerns, and in such a County as that of *Durham*, its very peculiar Civil ones. — Not to mention that the *City of Durham* is sufficiently important of itself, to demand a single and an extensive Relation.

We cannot enough regret the little regard that has hitherto been paid to ancient ARCHITECTURE, of which so many beautiful Models in this County are daily crumbling to pieces. Among the Desiderata therefore of our Antiquarian knowledge, must be reckoned a Notitia of our Churches, Castles &c. with faithful representations; the tracery of Windows the mouldings and turns of Arches, the rich and light dressings of Pinnacles and Buttresses, the foliage of Capitals, the clustering of Pillars, the disposition of Pilasters, the variations in the opposite side of the same Transept, and a thousand nicer Articles both of Ornament and Use, to which We have scarce assigned distinguishing names, are all to be attended to.

SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS (however ungraceful most of the earlier ones may seem) are Records of their respective Ages, having their several Eras, from the Coffin fashioned Tomb with no figure at all, or only a Crosier, and seldom inscribed, to the most ornamented Canopy or Chapel, which ended at the Reformation, when a strange hair-brained Zeal began to shew itself against painted Glass, Stone Statues, and Grave Stones, many of which were defaced and utterly destroyed, along with other more valuable Monuments of the Church, 'till Q. Elizabeth put a stop to these scandalous doings by an express Act of Parliament. — In our late Civil Wars, and during the Usurpation, our Zealots began again these Depredations on Grave Stones, and stripped and pillaged them to the minutest piece of Metal. — I know it is urged, that their hatred to Popery was so great, that they could not endure to see an *Orate pro Anima*, or even a Cross on a Monument without defacing it; but its plain, that it was more for the poor lucre of the Brass, than Zeal, which tempted the Miscreants to this Act. — Let no Man from hence say, *Exegi Monumentum ære perennius* in the strict sense of these words, for this *Æris sacra famæ* has robbed Us of most of the antient Monumental Inscriptions that were in our Churches; and how many that survived the violence of those times, are suffered to decay in this, removed, broke-to pieces, restored in an awkward manner, or even plain painted and white washed. — The want of taste that suffers beautiful Pilasters and Monuments of fine Marble &c. to be daubed with Plaister, or rich Capitals and Ornaments to be knocked off in every repair of our Cathedrals, Churches and Castles, will justify the throwing by a mutilated Trunk, or selling imperfect Brasses, — thus Probendaries, Rectors &c. sanctify the Sacrilege of Parish Clerks and Sextons.

— *I doe love these auncient Ruynes:*
We never tread upon them but We set
Our Foote upon some reverend History:
And questionless here in this open Court
(Which now lies naked to the Injuries
Of stormy Weather) some Men lye enterred
Loved the Church so well, and gave so largely to't
They thought it should have canopide their Bones
Till Doombesday; but all Things have their end;
Churches and Citties (which have Diseases like to Men)
Must have like Death that We have. —

DATES or INSCRIPTIONS in singular Characters, have been hitherto little attended to, or if given at all, not in the Original form.— An Antiquarian should be ashamed to give them otherwise; but by the lot of human fallibility, every Age leaves something for the next to find— if such Materials escape the Wreck and Changes of so long a Period:

It was a singular good fortune of the last Age to have given birth to HOLLAR, whose band has made DUGDALE and THOROTON's Works most valuable Repositories of our ancient Sepulchral Monuments; and in the *Heralds Office* are many valuable Notes and Draughts of Monuments long since defaced and lost.— The *Antiquarian Society* too, have during a course of Fifty Years, caused many antient Monuments to be engraven by that faithful Artist GEORGE VERTUE; this is still a part of their Plan, though the Public does not receive such frequent Presents from them.— The Pencil is as essential as the Pen to illustrate Antiquities, those who contribute Plates of antient Monuments or Seals to County Histories, promote knowledge better, than by filling them with Views of private Houses, interesting to none but the Owners Vanity.

The several HERALDIC Remains in Windows, and other parts of our Churches, Castles and Manor Houses, which in their mangled state preserve Historical knowledge, are so many Evidences of Descents, Benefactions and Property, that they should be carefully attend to.— The usefulness of that part of History which treats of GENEALOGIES hath been amply set forth by so many Authors, that it wou'd be Vanity in me to pretend to make Additions; but however I must beg leave to observe, what a matter of Importance it is, to every Family, not excepting the meanest, to pay some regard to their Pedigrees, as there are many considerable Estates in the Kingdom at this time in the possession of those (who are no more than Usurpers) for want of tracing the right Heir and neglect of Pedigrees.— Visitations of the Heralds for this purpose, began about the middle of the 16th. Century, and the last held for this County was in 1666, therefore such as have neglected to bring down the Continuation of their Pedigrees, may still easily join themselves to their old Family Stock, by recording them in the College of Arms or Heralds Office at London, (whose Books have always been allowed as Evidence at Common Law) but if neglected in this Generation, the next may be too late, and the Memory of Families and their connections become irrecoverably lost.— There was a time when our Heralds were our Censors, now, they must serve to assist our Antiquarian Researches.

Some

Some Years ago a Society was formed in Ireland, to compile a Compleat History of the antient and present State of that Kingdom, which I believe is still continued with great Success:

About the same time Dr. BURTON of York published Proposals with Queries for a like History of Yorkshire, which met with such Encouragement, as enabled him to give us the first Volume of his *Monasticon Eboracense*, but he soon after died, and the remainder (being the most valuable part of the Work) fell into private hands, where in all probability it will remain unpublished.

About three Years ago, the ingenious Dr. GOWER followed the same Plan for CHESHIRE, which noble Work the Public are in daily expectations of.

It was these Precedents, joined with the Sollicitations and partial Opinion of some Friends, that induces me to make a similar attempt for the County of Durham, — hence I have *mutatis mutandis* drawn up the following Queries, by which it will appear, the task is too difficult for one Person to compleat, without extraordinary helps, and if this Scheme should merit the public Attention, sufficient Materials may soon be gathered, to give the most exact Account, — Though after all, I am so far from any Self Ambition, either of Fame or Fortune from this undertaking, that if any more able hand would ease me of my future Labors, I will with pleasure decline the Office, lend every Paper and Assistance in my Power, and Subscribe liberally towards this much wished for History.

The Request therefore to such as are desirous of promoting the Undertaking, is, that to each Query, they will please to write down their Reports (*and transmit them to the Printer hereof*) confining themselves to one Parish at a time, and distinguishing always between matter of Fact, Conjecture and Tradition: Nor will any it is hoped omit such Informations as shall occur to their thoughts, upon presumption, that they can be of little use to the Public, or because they have not leisure to write down their Observations so regularly as they desire, or that they cannot answer every Query; seeing that what We sometimes judge insignificant, may afterwards, upon some application unthought of, appear very useful, and a regular and complete Account of Things is not here so much expected, as short Memorials and some directions.

The

The preceeding Observations and Remarks have informed and amused the Collector, — if they only amuse such Readers whose Pursuits are congenial to his own, he will be happy; — if they inform them, his Passion for the History and Antiquities of his Native Country, and the Honor of this Palatinate, becomes a *Literary*, and not a *Pecuniary* Zeal to serve the Public, who may possibly trace the *Hand* that sends them this Address, tho' it has not the Confidence to subscribe its *Name*.

July 1774.



QUERIES

PROPOSED TO THE

Clergy and Gentlemen

IN THE SEVERAL PARTS OF THE
COUNTY PALATINE OF DURHAM.

WHAT is the Antient and Modern Name of your Parish or Town, and its Etymology?

2. By what other Parishes or Townships is it boundered, North and South, East and West, and what is its length and breadth?
3. What number of Townships, Hamletts, or Villages are in it, in what Division, Hundred, Quarter, or Constabulary situated, and which are Market Towns?
4. What is the computed Number of Houses, Families and Inhabitants?
5. Are there any and what Manors or Lordships in the Parish, and to whom do they belong?
6. What particular Customs, Privileges or remarkable Tenures are in the said Manors?
7. Are there any Annual or other Processions, Perambulations, Wakes, Feasts, Games, or other Customs of that sort used in your Parish? — What are the Vulgar Traditions concerning their Origin, and on what days kept?
8. What Rivers, Rivulets, Fisheries, Mountains, Rocks, Caves, Parks, Woods, Commons, Wastes, Warrens, Mines, Quarries, Mills, Lakes or Mineral Waters, are in your Parish, and by what Names are they called, and to whom do they respectively belong?

See the Gentlemans Magazine for April 1755.

9. Are there any Castles, Forts, Remains or Ruins of Monasteries, Rocks, Priories, Nunneries, Hermitages, Cells, or other Religious Houses, Chapels of Ease, Donatives, Sanctuaries or Priviledged Places, Dissenting Meetings, Free Schools, Hospitals, Alms-houses, Bridges, or other Public Buildings? When and by whom built, founded, endowed, or repaired, and who has the right of placing People in them, and how and by what means are they supported, and what Traditions have you about them?

10. Are there any Lands or Money appropriated to any particular Charity, by whom, and when given or left, if by Deed or Will, give an Extract or rather a full Copy thereof, and by whom the same is now paid?

11. Are there any Roman Ways, Pavements, or Subterraneous Works, Camps or Intrenchments, Barrows or Tumuli, Altars, Crosses, Obelisks, Beacons, Stones fixed, or other pieces of Antiquity remaining in your Parish, what are they, by what names called, and on what occasion placed, and what Traditions or Historical Accounts have you of them?

12. Have there been any remarkable Battles fought, on what spot, by whom and when?

13. Have there been any Altars, Statues, Medals, Coins, Urns, Lamps, Instruments, Rings, Seals, or other pieces of Antiquity dug up or found in your Parish; when, where, and by whom, and in whose custody are they at present?

14. What Mansion houses or Gentlemens Seats, the Names and Qualities of the present Owners, their Arms, Pedigrees, and whence they came?

15. Are there in any of the said Houses, any remarkable Historical Pictures, or Portraits of eminent Persons, curious Statues, Buits, Urns, Coins, Arms, Painted Glass, or other Things worthy notice?

16. Has the Parish given Birth or Burial to any Man eminent for Learning or other remarkable or valuable Qualifications?

17. Have you or know you of, any antient Manuscripts, Charters, Grants, Pedigrees, Rolls, Deeds, Wills, or other Writings, on what Subject, in what Language, in whose Hands, and whether Originals or Copies only?

18. Are there any and what Bridges, by whom built, how are they supported, by Public or Private Cost; what number of Arches, the length and breadth of the Bridge, and width of the Arches?

19. What Markets or Fairs are kept in your Parish, and on what Days, and what Commodities are chiefly brought there for Sale, and what Tolls are taken?

20. Are there any and what Manufactories carried on in your Parish, and what number of Hands are employed therein?

21. What is the Annual Rent or Value of the Lands and Houses in your Parish, Township or Constabulary, and how much Landtax is paid when at 4s. in the Pound? — What is your Poor Rate a Pound? — And what is the general Price paid for Lands, Arable Meadow and Pasture?

22. What is generally a Days Wages for Labourers in Husbandry and other Work, and what per day, for Carpenters, Masons, Taylors, &c.?

23. What are the present Prices of Provisions, Beef, Veal, Mutton, Lamb, Pork, Pigs, Geese, Turkies, Ducks, Chickens, Rabbits, Butter, Milk and Cheese?

24. IN what Deanry does your Church or Chapel stand, — Is it dedicated to any and what Saint. — When and by whom was it built. — Has it a Tower or Spire. What are its Dimensions, Ailes, Chancel, Altars, Chanceries, and number of Bells.

25. Is it a Rectory, Vicarage, Curacy, or Donative — Who are the present and past Patrons and Incumbents as far back as you can trace? — To whom do the Great and Small Tyths belong. Is there any and what Glebe. Have you any Terrier thereof. What Lands are Tyth free and why. What Moduses, by whom, and for what Lands paid. What are the Particularities or Modes of Tything. What are the First Fruits, Tents, Procurations, Synodals &c. What is the Living reputed to be worth per Annum. Has it had the Queens Bounty, and when?

26. When does your Parish Register begin, if any curious Entries or Remarks made therein, please to give a literal Copy?

27. What number of People have been christ'ned, married, and buried, for these ten years last past?
28. Are there any Vaults or Burial Places peculiar to any and what antient Families, in what part of the Church, and to whom do they belong?
29. Is there any thing uncommon in your Font or Altar Piece?
30. What are or were the Inscriptions and Arms on your Bells, Communion Plate, or other Church Furniture, and what Plate have you?
31. Are there any antient or modern Monuments, Grave Stones, or Arms, in the Church, Chancel, or Church Yard; Give a particular account thereof, where placed, whether Mural, Prostrate, or Altar Tombs, Stone or Marble, with true Literatim Copies of the Inscriptions and Arms, (if any worthy notice) distinguishing such in particular as are on Brass Plates?
32. Are there any Paintings in the Windows, either of Figures or Arms; give a Copy or Description and where placed?
33. Are there any Tables of Benefactions or other Parochial Memorials, on any of the Walls either within or without the Church, please to copy them at full length?
34. Have you any Parochial Library?



